

MLN Matters Number: MM4087

Related Change Request (CR) #: 4087

Related CR Release Date: October 21, 2005

Effective Date: January 1, 2006

Related CR Transmittal #: 721

Implementation Date: January 3, 2006

## Use of Value Codes (VCs) 48 and 49 on End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) Bills

**Note:** This article was revised to contain Web addresses that conform to the new CMS web site and to show they are now MLN Matters articles. All other information remains the same.

### Provider Types Affected

Providers billing fiscal intermediaries (FIs) for services provided at renal dialysis facilities (RDFs)

### Provider Action Needed

This article is based on Change Request (CR) 4087, which instructs End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) facilities billing Medicare to report the most recent hemoglobin or hematocrit reading before the start of the billing period for dialysis claims submitted on type of bill (TOB) 72X (Renal Dialysis Facility).

This provides ample opportunity for ESRD facilities to respond to hematocrit/hemoglobin readings in titrating the dose of erythropoietin (Epoetin Alfa (Procrit); EPO) for ESRD patients.

### Background

The National Uniform Billing Committee (NUBC) previously defined the use of Value Codes (VCs) 48 and 49 as the most recent hemoglobin and hematocrit readings **before the end of the billing period**, where:

- VC 48 is used to collect hemoglobin information; and
- VC 49 is used to collect hematocrit information on institutional outpatient dialysis bills.

However, reporting of hemoglobin and hematocrit readings at the end of the billing period does not provide an opportunity for facilities to respond to the results of testing in titrating their dosage for the billing period. Therefore, at their August, 2005 meeting, the NUBC changed the specific definitions of VCs 48 and 49 for the

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institutional bill to provide for the reporting of hemoglobin and hematocrit readings before the **start** of the billing period.

To provide ample opportunity for ESRD facilities to respond to the hematocrit/hemoglobin reading in titrating the dose of erythropoietin (EPO) for the period, CR4087 instructs ESRD facilities billing Medicare to report the most recent hemoglobin (VC 48) or hematocrit (VC49) reading before the **start** of the billing period for dialysis claims submitted on TOB 72X.

## Implementation

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The implementation date for the instruction is January 3, 2006.

## Additional Information

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For complete details, please see the official instruction issued to your intermediary regarding this change. That instruction may be viewed at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/transmittals/downloads/R721CP.pdf> on the CMS web site.

From that web page, look for CR4087 in the CR NUM column on the right, and click on the file for that CR.

If you have any questions, please contact your intermediary at their toll-free number, which may be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/CallCenterTollNumDirectory.pdf> on the CMS web site.

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